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Government  
Publications

# Norton declares all-out war on acid rain

"The Ontario Government's position is this: All-out war on acid rain," Keith C. Norton said in his first major address as Minister of the Environment at a conference on acid rain held at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

United States and Canadian academics, industrialists, provincial state and federal government representatives and environmentalists from both countries attended the conference, sponsored by the Canadian-American Center of the University.

Acid rain is the problem, the minister said, that threatens the

close and excellent relationship which has traditionally existed between the U.S. and Canada.

Mr. Norton pointed out that Ontario's concern is based on the following facts:

- Nearly ten per cent of Ontario's economic base comes from the aquatic-based tourism and outdoor recreation industries. In 1980, direct expenditures alone in this area are conservatively estimated at \$900 million.
- Tens of thousands of lakes in these recreational areas are sensitive to the insidious damage of acid rain.

- A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report in July 1980, concluded that Canada receives two to four times as much sulphur dioxide and eleven times as much nitrogen oxides as the United States gets from Canada. In Ohio alone, the 11 largest thermal power plants currently spew about 2.3 million tons of sulphur dioxide into our common airshed. All of Ontario's sources combined, including Inco Ltd., in Sudbury and Ontario Hydro, currently produce about 1.5 million tons.
- In February 1979, a prolonged

cold spell in Southern Ontario was broken by warm southerly winds which originated south of the Great Lakes. As the winds shifted from the south, sulphur dioxide concentrations began to rise dramatically. Within several days, pollution levels had risen above guidelines set to protect public health in Ontario.

As a result, the ministry asked Ontario industries to cut back their operations. The subsequent investigation conducted by the ministry showed that 50 per cent of the pollutants originated in the United States.

In August 1980 your country and mine signed a Memorandum of

(continued on pg. 3)

## Keith C. Norton Environment Minister

## ENVIRONMENT ONTARIO — LEGACY

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May, June 1981

# Ontario takes battle to United States courts

Ontario has recently taken three major steps in its efforts to reduce emission levels from U.S. power plants causing acid rain in the province. In addition, Ontario's concerns and the need for international co-operation for the control of the *acid rain* was brought to the attention of a wide sector of the U.S. public on a press conference held in March. At this conference Environment Ontario's deputy minister, Graham W.S. Scott and ministry experts briefed New York State officials, members of the Canadian consulate general in New York City and media on Ontario's concerns.

Environment Ontario filed a motion on April 9 for leave to intervene as a respondent in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in the pending matter of petitions filed by the State of Ohio and Ohio Edison Company and Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company.

The Ohio petitions, filed March 17, attempt to prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from considering the effects on the Canadian environment when revising or permitting amendments to State Implementation Plans (SIP). The present U.S. Clean Air Act requires the Administrator of EPA to determine if Canada is affected by U.S. air pollution.

The procedural steps being taken by Ohio and the power companies are an attempt to restrict EPA consideration to the environment of the United States, and could therefore deprive Ontario of status to continue its earlier interventions with EPA.

Ontario's earlier interventions, filed with EPA in Washington and Chicago, oppose proposed SIP amendments that would substantially increase sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions which contribute to acid rain in Ontario, at 18 coal-burning power plants in six American states — Ohio, Illinois, Michigan,

Indiana, Tennessee and West Virginia.

The Ohio petitions in the U.S. Court of Appeals seek to strike down the action of Douglas M. Costle, former Administrator of EPA, who declared on January 13, 1981, that U.S. emissions were negatively affecting Canada's environment, and that the provisions of Section 115 of the U.S. Clean Air Act should apply to Canada.

Ontario is intervening in the court to support its contention that Mr. Costle's action did in fact activate Section 115.

"The mechanisms offered by Section 115 are essential to Canada and Ontario in their efforts to restrict U.S. acid rain causing emissions," stated newly appointed Ontario Environment Minister Keith Norton. "We believe that the Administrator must take the Canadian environment into account in setting limits on U.S. emissions."

## "Abatement must start"

Ontario's philosophy and the measures the province is taking to curtail the long range transport of air pollutants were described by Environment Ontario Deputy Minister Graham W.S. Scott at the joint meeting of the American Meteorological Society and the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society held in Albany, N.Y.

Mr. Scott said that Ontario has sufficient concrete scientific evidence about the menace of acid rain and is fully aware of the limited time in which action must be taken before the environment is damaged, possibly irreversibly.

The average pH of rainfall for most of southern Ontario is now less than 5.0, Mr. Scott said.

In the Muskoka-Haliburton area, rainfall has an annual mean pH of 4.0 to 4.2 — the accumulation of which, over time, is bound to kill most aquatic life.

Reports from the Canada-U.S. research group indicate that it is going to take at least five years to put effective abatement measures

(continued on pg. 4)



The Honourable Keith C. Norton, Q.C., was appointed Minister of the Environment on April 10, 1981. He was first elected to the Ontario Legislature as MPP for Kingston and the Islands in 1975 and served as Minister of Community and Social Services from February 1977 and as Parliamentary Assistant to the Treasurer since 1976.

Born in 1941 in Claremont, Ontario, Mr. Norton graduated from Queen's University, Kingston, in 1961. He is also a graduate of the Ontario College of Education and taught at the secondary school level in Whitby before returning to Queen's where he graduated in law in 1969.

He practiced law in Kingston from 1971 until his election to the Ontario Legislature, and was director of Legal Aid at the faculty of Law, Queen's University, from 1973 to 1975. During his practice he specialized in family and juvenile law.

Mr. Norton served as an alderman for the City of Kingston from 1973 to 1975 and was Deputy Mayor at the time of his election to the Ontario Legislature.

Mr. Norton is a resident of Kingston, and has served the community as chairman of the board at Rideaucrest Home for the aged and as a director of Kingston Day Care.

## Control Order for G.L. Forest, Algoma

Environment Ontario has announced that it will issue Control Orders on Great Lakes Forest Products Ltd.'s Thunder Bay mill and on Algoma Steel in Sault Ste Marie.

The Control Order on Great Lakes Forest Products will require the company to comply with odour and particulate regulations to significantly improve the quality of the waste water discharge over the next four years.

To meet the terms of the Order,

the company must complete its in-plant reduction program by September 30, 1983, to ensure a biological oxygen demand (BOD) reduction within the effluent from the two kraft mills of 10 metric tons per day is attained.

In addition, Great Lakes is to have installed by December 31, 1982, a system to collect and recover chemicals from the sulphite mill of its newsprint operation. On completion of the Order, the existing BOD loading from the

complex to the river will have been reduced in total by approximately 50 per cent. Also compliance with provincial regulations for odorous and suspended particulate emissions from the industrial complex must be met by March 31, 1984.

The proposed Control Order on Algoma Steel Corporation will require the company to undertake studies and abatement measures designed to reduce air emissions and waste water emissions to the St. Marys River.

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# It's all one world...

## Organic farms output less but cheaper



(photo: Tessa Burcharth)

## Polluted tissues banked

Scientists involved in the study of changes in the levels of pollutants are often faced with the lack of comparable tissue samples from the past. They can therefore not establish whether the suspected changes are real or just the result of improved analytical techniques.

To solve this problem for the future, West German scientists have established a storehouse of samples from the environment at the Juelich Atomic Energy Research Centre under the supervision of the German Office of Environmental Affairs.

In this bank samples of human blood, liver and fat tissue, of all kinds of animal tissues, grasses, plants, milk, etc., are collected and stored in dust-free rooms at -190° C. The level of hydrocarbons, pesticides and other pollutants in the samples are measured on their arrival and later at regular intervals.

A substantial part of the samples is stored to allow future scientists equipped with possibly even more sensitive instruments that the ones used today to compare the levels of contamination existing in their time with the levels existing today.

### Cleanup starts

The world's most polluted major body of water, the Mediterranean, may look forward to some improvements. The European Common Market nations and 16 nations bordering the Sea have now agreed on a three-year clean-up program.

Headquarters for the program will be in Athens, and \$13 million have been approved for preliminary expenditures to be used through 1983. Of this amount, \$3 million will be spent to measure the amount of pollution and to determine its causes and sources.

Organic farms may produce slightly lower crops per unit of farmland than farmers depending heavily on fertilizers and pesticides, reports W. Lockeretz, senior agricultural scientist of the Northeast Solar Energy Center in Boston. He bases his findings on a study of 174 U.S. Midwest commercial organic farms from 1974 to 1978.

The slightly lower production of organic farms, however, was largely offset by comparable reductions in operating expenses. Crop production was about equally profitable in the two types of farms, except in a year that had extremely favorable weather conditions.

The organic farmers, 80 per cent of which had been farming conventionally before changing their methods, used few methods that

could be regarded as exotic. As alternatives to fertilization and pest controls they used rotation with legume forages and other practices similar to those found on many Corn Belt farms.

Because of heavier reliance on legume forage as a nitrogen source, however, organic farmers may not be able to choose an exclusively cash grain operation.

### cornfields have advantage

Organic farms used less fossil energy per unit of crop produced and showed significantly reduced soil erosion because of the crop rotation and tillage methods adopted.

In soil nutrient status organic farms showed slightly higher levels of organic carbon and nitro-

gen in their fields but lower levels of available phosphorus.

Organically managed cornfields showed a clear advantage with less stalk rot. In crop quality organically grown crops had lower crude protein content and a different amino acids balance.

Summing up, Mr. Lockeretz said that organic farmers had fared reasonably well without chemical fertilizers and pesticides and without the benefit of the scientific and technical assistance available to farmers following conventional practices. The research also indicated, that an intermediate system, combining a modest application of chemicals together with practices adopted by organic farmers, may prove more attractive from the viewpoint of productivity, profitability and resource use than either of the two systems studied.

## The six stages of conflict

When the product or project of a company comes under suspicion of being an environmental or health risk, a conflict with public pressure groups is inevitable.

Dr. David Ford of Bath University, England, has researched the development of many conflicts between corporations and environmental groups and found that they generally follow a six-stage pattern.

With the onset of public pressure, company officials don blinkers, saying, "The public doesn't know what it's talking about anyway." They try to avoid the issue altogether, perhaps refusing to even comment. This first stage of environmental conflict is known as "peace."

The second stage, "skirmish," occurs when the company fails to take advantage of the "peace" stage to work up a strategy and finds itself cornered by public pressure. At this point it pretends the problem will go away or flatly denies its existence. Pressure groups become hostile.

Enter the media. If journalists receive the same vague company replies as environmental groups, the chase is on. The issue is brought to wide attention, the company is hit from all sides and usually suffers financial losses.

On rare occasions, the pressure group may be defeated at this stage. Usually, however, the company vacillates so long that it loses all credibility. It will finally disavow that it must deal with the situation after all.

After this fourth stage of "defeat" comes "victory from defeat." The company takes steps to

rectify the problem. It then uses these steps as a selling point for its product or project.

This leads to the sixth and final stage—the "pre-emptive strike." Learning from its experience, the company will include environmental and health standards in the

design of new products or the planning of new projects.

The Bath University study concludes that the company is largely responsible for damage that may occur as a result of the conflict, because of its unyielding attitude in the beginning.

## Volga water to flow north

Despite serious warnings that a planned diversion of north flowing Russian rivers toward the dry south may cause serious changes in the environment of the northern hemisphere, Russia seems to go ahead with its program.

The guidelines for the eleventh five-year plan, announced on December 2, 1980, in Moscow, state: "Preparatory work is to be commenced on transferring part of the outflow of northern rivers to the Volga basin, as well as continuing the scientific and design studies for the transfer of waters from Siberian rivers to Central Asia and Kazakhstan."

Scientific and Industrial Research after a study prompted by an outbreak of gastroenteritis that caused several deaths.

Water contaminated by coliform bacteria has been found everywhere—in the government palaces and in the ice cream served at the Hotel International.

The pollution is not only caused by the seepage of untreated sewage into the water supply, but also by industrial waste, dumped into the sewage system.

The council expects further deterioration of the water from the abundant use of pesticides. The country not only imports DDT, but also large amounts of aldrin and dieldrin. A faulty batch of another pesticide, malathion, was responsible for the intoxication of 2100 sprayers and the death of seven of them in northern Pakistan.

### No clean water

There is no clean water in Pakistan's capital Karachi, concluded the Pakistan Council for



Ontario

Ministry  
of the  
Environment

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Minister  
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# All-out war on acid rain

(continued from pg. 1)

Intent under which both parties agreed to enforce existing laws and regulations to control emission sources. During that same year, the administrator of your Environmental Protection Agency, a co-signer of the Memorandum, relaxed controls for nine coal-fired plants in the United States. This relaxation approved the increased emission of approximately 800,000 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> per year, considerably more than the current emission from all Ontario coal-fired power plants," Mr. Norton explained. "For Ontario, the results of acid rain are a critical environmental problem.

"Our scientific research clearly tells us that acid rain is a serious threat to the North American environment. A solution would mean stringent actions not only from our own jurisdiction, but from our neighbours," as well."

Mr. Norton said the fastest way to get that action is to build public knowledge and awareness and hence public support for the necessary solutions. Since February, 1979, when the issue of acid rain was dealt with in public hearings before an Ontario legislative committee, the public response has been strong and consistent — it wants action.

"Ontario is prepared to start the clean-up in its own backyard. In May 1980 we ordered Inco to cut back its emissions to 833,000 met-

ric tons per year and to have facilities in place by the end of 1982 to produce only 647,000 metric tons per year.

"Ontario chose to implement these levels, not by the usual control order procedures which could have been stayed by company appeals, but rather by using a government regulation which does not carry with it regular appeal mechanisms.

"From 1969 to 1982 Inco will have reduced emissions by over 65 per cent. But these limits are only the first step. Our goal is to reach the lowest level it is possible to achieve technically and economically. Studies undertaken by a joint federal-provincial task force will be completed by 1983 to give us the best solution for accomplishing this.

"Our second step involves Ontario Hydro, a crown corporation which supplies almost all of the province's electrical energy. Its coal-fired plants together form the second largest emitter of SO<sub>2</sub> in the province. In January of this year, we placed annual limits on Hydro's emissions which require the utility to immediately undertake approximately \$500 million worth of control activities," the minister said.

"By 1985, emission levels must be down to 390,000 metric tons per year from current average levels of 452,000 metric tons. By 1990, a

ceiling of 260,000 metric tons of SO<sub>2</sub> per year is required. This is a reduction of approximately 43 per cent from the current average levels. It will apply regardless of any increase in electrical demand."

The emissions of nitrogen oxides will be reduced to 60,000 metric tons per year by 1986 through the addition of low NO<sub>x</sub> burners and by reducing coal-fired generation.

"We have also asked Hydro to explore a new operating philosophy. Called L.E.D.S., for Least Emission Dispatching System, it means that a utility generates power first from its 'cleanest' plants leaving the 'dirtiest' plants to handle excess loads. I understand this philosophy is also being explored by your government. We feel very optimistic that Hydro will be able to fully utilize this method of operation.

"The solutions for acid rain will be costly. Inco has estimated figures in the \$400 million range for current and future control programs. Hydro will spend about \$500 million. The Ontario government is spending about \$5 million to develop more detailed information about the full extent of the problem and to develop the most effective strategies for fighting it. Even more money is going to be committed next year.



Average path of storms that carry emissions from U.S. plants to Ontario.

the U.S. which have a direct bearing on relaxation requests.

"Our actions are as follows:

- On March 12, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment filed a legal intervention with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It asks the EPA to reject proposals from six states for a relaxation of emissions limits governing 18 power plants on Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia and Tennessee.
- We also ask that the EPA enforce existing emission limits, review regulations on levels which govern all U.S. power plants and consider permissible emissions from the perspective

of total effect on northeastern North America. We oppose applications to amend U.S. State Implementation Plans under which individual states would be permitted to increase pollutant emissions subject to approval of the federal EPA.

• In April 9, Ontario filed a motion for leave to intervene as a respondent, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, where petitions are pending, filed by Ohio and two of its electrical power utilities. Their petitions, filed March 17, attempt to prevent the EPA from considering the effects to the Canadian environment when revising State Implementation Plans.

## Focus on true costs and values

"... we are rapidly bringing together the dollar figures which will show the true costs of uncontrolled acid rain. Various estimates have been made, but part of our research efforts are going into producing definitive numbers so we can put accurate values on the other side of the cost-benefit scale — the dollars in lost business in our tourism and outdoor recreation industry; the costs of damage to man-made structures; the potential loss of crops and trees; and, if our worst fears are borne out, the impact on human health and the costs to society that could entail.

"Right now, the Ontario government is asking its citizens to bear the costs of control programs which will actually produce more direct short term benefit for our downwind neighbours. That's a tough road for any politician to travel. But, we are doing it because it demonstrates beyond doubt that our intentions are and how strong our commitment is.

"With those steps underway, Ontario can turn to the real key to solution — co-operative international action. Along with the Canadian Federal government our province is one of the prime movers behind the Memorandum of Intent, signed last year. And, we are confirming our major involvement by fully participating with our federal and provincial colleagues in the working groups, formed under the agreement to produce the data needed for the treaty we both must have.

"This Memorandum was an excellent beginning for our two countries. Some of the statements

it makes bear repeating:

"The document declares that both parties will develop a bilateral agreement which will reflect and further the development of effective domestic control programs and other measures to combat transboundary air pollution."

Both governments agreed to:

- develop domestic air pollution control policies and strategies, and as necessary and appropriate, seek legislative or other support to give effect to them;

**governments agree to develop policies, share information**

- promote vigorous enforcement of existing laws and regulations as they require limitation of emissions from new, substantially modified and existing facilities in a way which is responsive to the problems of transboundary air pollution; and
- share information and consult on actions being taken pursuant to the above.

"We believe that technical solutions are available, and that adequate resources exist to implement them. More importantly, the scientific evidence suggests, we have enough time to take these

steps together, before irreversible and widespread damage occurs. However, I believe we do not have time to waste.

"It has also been encouraging to see a recent report by the U.S. National Commission on Air Quality, 'To Breathe Clean Air,' recognize that both countries intimately share the same regional airshed, and therefore Ontario's environment must be studied, assessed and protected in close concert with adjoining American states. That report is before the U.S. Congress for discussion of amendments to The Clean Air Act," the minister said.

"But after such a promising start, we have become increasingly concerned at what now appears to be happening in your country. Despite the commitments given under the Memorandum of Intent, existing pollution control regulations are not being enforced. The promised consultation with Canada on setting and enforcing standards has not taken place.

"The clearly demonstrable effects of acid rain on Ontario from current American emission levels are concern enough. We are adamantly opposed to the requests from various states and power plants to have the Environmental Protection Agency actually relax the pollution limits on sulphur dioxide emissions.

"The potential for damage to Ontario if these requests are granted is serious, and we cannot ignore them. It is because of this that we took the unusual and unprecedented step of legally intervening in relevant proceedings in

## Quality not negotiable

"To have any chance at all of combatting acid rain, there can not be any increases in North America's emissions. It makes little sense to me for the EPA and the American government to work towards international agreements aimed at reducing pollution on one hand, while allowing emitters a freer reign on the other. If the terms of the Memorandum are not strongly enforced and emissions are allowed to increase, then the levels set in future agreements will be that much harder and will take that much longer to implement.

"To me, to my government, to our citizens, Ontario's environmental quality is simply not negotiable. We have enforced pollution controls in our backyard in the past and we will continue to do so in the future. Our research will continue so that we may constantly update and refine our

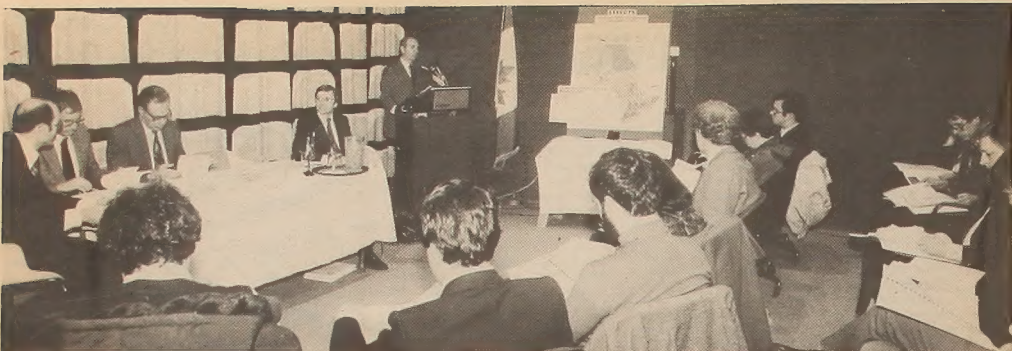
knowledge of sources, effects and possible controls.

"On the international front Ontario will stay a full participant in the Canada-U.S. working groups to lay the ground work for the urgently needed air quality agreement between our two countries.

"But we can't fight the problem alone. We need to co-operate, to work together, to share our research and to consult on standards. We have a history of success upon which we can build and of which we can be proud. With our record of success in joint action through agencies like the International Joint Commission, I am confident we can do it. I would prefer that we work closely, that we solve this problem as friends... it is a problem we both share.

"Ontario is waging the battle in our own backyard. We would ask you to do the same in yours."





## New York press conference

Environment Ontario's Deputy Minister, Graham W.S. Scott, announces Ontario's intervention against the relaxation of emission standards for powerplants to U.S. media

representatives at a press conference held at the Canadian consulate in New York. At the head table Air Precipitation in Ontario Study co-ordinator Ed Piche, legal services branch director Neil Mulvaney, assistant deputy minister environmental assessment and planning J.W. Giles and Charles Fraser of the Canadian consulate in New York.

## Abatement must start now

(continued from pg. 1)

into place, if that action is taken immediately!

In the past air quality was protected locally — airsheds were thought of as small areas. As a consequence, we are still bound by legislation covering local ground-level effects only, Mr. Scott said.

It is time to change this myopic approach and abatement methods. Since "airsheds" are common to many states and provinces in the U.S. and Canada, pollution control to protect the environment and health of people must be a shared responsibility and commitment of all parties.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's studies of air pollution problems in multi-state airsheds, is inadequate from our point of view. A glance at a map will show that the most environmentally sensitive part of Ontario is wedged in the middle of one of the most highly industrialized sectors of North America. This demonstrates that Ontario's environment must be studied, assessed and protected in close concert with the adjoining U.S. states.

Ontario, and eastern Canada, are pleased that these facts have been recognized in the findings and recommendations of the U.S. National Commission on Air Quality whose recent report, "To Breathe Clean Air," is now before the U.S. Congress for discussion in amendments in The Clean Air Act.

The Commission's report cites a total of more than 175 U.S.

smokestacks higher than 500 feet constructed since 1970, all but eight of these at powerplants that emit sulphur and nitrogen pollution, Mr. Scott said.

The report recognizes that the key factor associated with acid deposition is total pollutant loading — and not ambient concentrations. Large quantities of pollution can be released without violating ambient standards in an area if the emissions are sufficiently dispersed, Mr. Scott said.

Therefore, even a stringent local control program may permit pollutant emissions that can cause serious acid deposition in distant downwind regions.

sion standards. However, most litigation cases are hampered by problems with modelling, with the complexities of multi-source emissions, and with delays from appeals.

There is a need for new tools, methods and legal procedures to control the emission of contaminants if our environment is to be protected. We have the technology, and further improvements,

innovations and economies may be realized once a sizeable market for such technology has been established.

We may find that a 50 to 75 per cent reduction in emissions will reverse our present aquatic crisis. What we need is the political will and commitment to get on with the job, Mr. Scott said.

The Canada-U.S. Memorandum of Intent on Transboundary Air Pollution signed on August 5 of last year did three things.

- It committed both our countries to begin formal negotiations

towards a bilateral air quality agreement by June 1 of this year.

- It established five joint working groups designed to develop a common base of information to use in the negotiations.
- It committed both countries to take interim control actions under existing legal authorities to reduce transboundary air pollution pending the conclusion of the bilateral agreement.

Ontario has already lived up to the letter and spirit of that third commitment.

### Ontario shows full commitment

One of the major issues preventing legal remedies is the fact that EPA does not accept any computer dispersion model for emissions from sources at distances greater than 50 kilometers. Consequently, any model which attempts to prove emissions from sources at greater distances can be dismissed by the courts.

The EPA does have authority in cases where emissions from one state are preventing a neighboring state from reaching national emis-

sion standards. However, most litigation cases are hampered by problems with modelling, with the complexities of multi-source emissions, and with delays from appeals.

Both Canada and the U.S. have federal programs to promote the conversion of oil-fired thermal plants to coal. Canada's objective is to reduce SO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50 per cent when converting a plant from oil to coal. The economic benefit in switching from high-cost, imported oil to coal is so big that industries can more than afford the cost of protecting the environment.

In Canada all abatement measures apply to existing operations. But the U.S. in dealing with exist-

ing plants, has lately been relaxing, not tightening, requirements.

Canada has therefore taken a precedent-setting, legal step to draw to the attention of the Administrator of EPA what are believed to be actions which violate the recently-signed Memorandum of Intent.

The Memorandum, provides that all steps would be taken to enforce existing laws and regulations and to require all feasible reductions in emissions from current sources. Yet, in the same year, EPA relaxed the requirements on emissions for nine plants.

This relaxation approved the increased emission of 818,000 tons of SO<sub>2</sub> per annum, which is 50 per cent more than the current emissions from all of Ontario's coal-fired power plants. In January of this year, the Administrator found

in the context of Section 115 of The Clean Air Act, that U.S. sources were harming Canadian lakes.

Ontario's intervention, filed with the Administrator in March of this year, relates to the application from six states for the relaxation of emission controls on 18 coal-fired plants. The relaxation requested would double the emissions now approved for these 18 plants and double their harmful effect.

Since Ontario believes this violates the commitment made in the Memorandum of Intent, and clearly undermines Ontario's abatement efforts, it is being drawn to the Administrator's attention with a request that the relaxations be refused and that existing standards be enforced in all other power plants. Ontario also seeks a reversal of decisions affecting the nine plants approved last year.



### Ministry employees honor Dr. Parrott

Environment Ontario Deputy Minister Graham W.S. Scott presents Dr. Parrott with an enlargement of his favorite photograph taken while he served as minister. The brass

weathervane, decorated with a brass sculpture of a trotting horse, is a gift of Environment Ontario's employees to the departing minister. Ontario's new environment minister, Keith C. Norton and Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Parrott enjoy a farewell party given for Dr. Parrott by the ministry employees.

(photo: Hans Eijer)



# Ontario helps Poland in environmental control

"In Silesia you only need a sharp knife to measure air quality. With it you cut a cube of solid dirt out of the air and weigh it..."

Victor Rudik, assistant director of the environmental approvals branch of Environment Ontario, found this comment quite appropriate. It was made by one of four Canadian, U.S. and British environmental experts with whom he visited Poland in February 1981.

Close to 35 years of concentrated industrial development, especially in the southern part of the country, Silesia, have brought the Polish environment into a disastrous condition.

## "unrest caused by deterioration"

"Only five per cent of all Polish waterbodies contain life," states a report of the World Health Organization.

"If somebody would claim that the present unrest in Poland is in part caused by the deterioration of the environment, I would be inclined to believe it," said Rudik in summing up his impressions gained during the one-week visit.

Environmental deterioration of such magnitude cannot be overlooked. To control it the Polish government has established an institute to co-ordinate the development of remedial technology. It has also developed an environmental control statute that demands the consideration of environmental effect of major industrial developments at the planning stage.

To train members of the institute in the philosophy and in procedures of environmental assessment, Poland contacted the World Health Organization for assistance. WHO invited five environmental specialists to conduct a workshop on environmental assessment for Polish administrators in Jablona, a suburb of Warsaw.

Rudik was one of them. The others were Alain Soucy, Director of Environment for the James Bay Corporation, Quebec; Dr. Larry Larsen, geology professor and consultant from Reno, Nevada; Michael Prior from London, England and Dr. Philip Jones, from the University of Toronto representing WHO.

## development of Upper Vistula

The experts and their Polish "students" — medical doctors, chemists, civil engineers, hydrologists and administrators — focused their discussions on several large projects being considered by the Polish government:

- the development of the Upper Vistula by a series of dams to provide electric power and better barge transportation;
- copper mining and smelting projects;
- the disposal of tailings from old and new copper, coal and lignite mines;

— the effects of the burning of coal and lignite in homes and factories on ambient air and on climate were also to be studied.

The environmental problems associated with the projects are compounded by the fact that they are to be developed on some of Poland's most fertile and most productive agricultural lands.

In answer to the needs of the Polish authorities, the Western environmental experts gave their guidance on the possible approaches to evaluating the new projects in a comprehensive way.

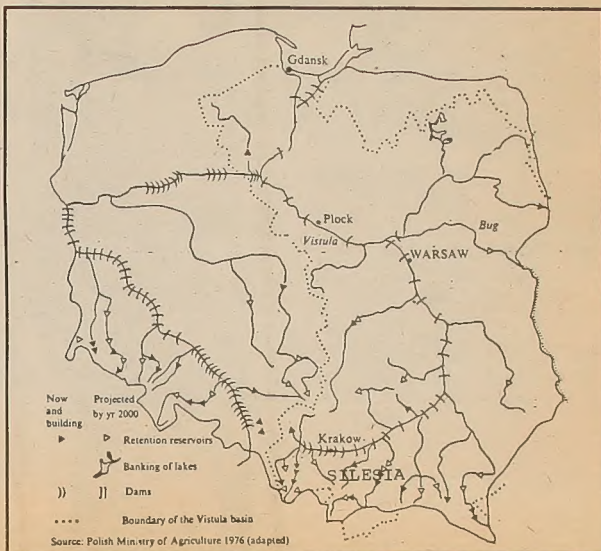
Other matters of interest to the Polish administrators concerned the location of industrial complexes and the siting of new housing projects for workers, the provision of clean water and sewage treatment services with a minimal disruption of agricultural production.

The consideration of the projects was aggravated by the country's past environmental deterioration, the expected effects of river damming on the water table, the necessity to conserve prime agricultural soil and the dislocation of farming communities necessary for the large open-pit mining projects, the existing contamination of surface waters by heavy metals and the brackish nature of groundwater caused by large underground salt deposits.

The Polish administration's aim in environmental planning and assessment is, Rudik reports, to achieve a balance of the various physical, social and economic values and issues, including the costs of environmental protection through prevention.

Poland's economy is centrally planned. All major industrial operations are run by government organizations comparable to our crown corporations and the enforcement of environmental regulations by other government agencies is often frustrated by strongly conflicting objectives and priorities of the regulators and those being regulated.

The intensity of the work done at



The chart indicates the location of various large drainage basin developments in Poland.

the workshop, Rudik feels; is indicative of the Polish administration's genuine intent to deal with its present and future environmental problems in a systematic way. In a follow-up stage, a number of Polish administrators plan to visit Canada in April and May to look at our way of doing things. They will focus especially on actual projects involving the retrofitting of environmental controls to old plants, and at new plants using new abatement technology. Administrative structures and support services are also of concern.

Poland still has a long way to go to achieve a healthy environment

— but a start has been made. The Polish government is determined to improve the situation and to avoid environmental problems in the future while dealing with

existing pollution sources.

In the interest of an overall protection of planet Earth, Rudik says, we should do as much as possible to support these and similar efforts.

## Dr. James A. Vance

Dr. James A. Vance, chairman of the Ontario Water Resources Commission from 1964 to 1969, died at the Woodstock General Hospital on Monday, April 20, 1981, in his 88th year. Dr. Vance was a member of the Ontario Water Resources Committee before being appointed Commissioner in 1956.

A civil engineering graduate of the University of Toronto, Dr. Vance was a past president of the Engineering Institute of Canada and a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee of the University of Western Ontario. He was also Ontario Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Canadian Forestry Association, and a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. In 1959 he received an honorary degree, LL.D., Doctor of Laws, from the University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Vance assumed the chairmanship of the Ontario Water Resources Commission just as it was embarking on a new phase of its diversified program concerned with the development, utilization, treatment and management of water resources and the provision of adequate pollution control measures in Ontario. The new undertaking involved the building and operation of water pipelines with Ontario Government funds in areas where the supply was deemed to be



Dr. James A. Vance

inadequate. The first such pipeline project — the Lake Huron Water Supply System — was built from Grand Bend on Lake Huron to the City of London.

Always active in civic affairs, Dr. Vance served as chairman of the Woodstock General Hospital, was chairman of the building committee of the University Hospital in London, Ont., and was a past president of the Oxford County Tuberculosis Association. In 1953 he was awarded the Sir John Kennedy Medal by the Engineering Institute of Canada for his outstanding and generous contributions to engineering.

## Three-member South Cayuga panel appointed

A special three-member panel has been appointed to conduct public hearings into the safety of the Ontario Government's proposed liquid industrial waste treatment facility at South Cayuga.

Appointed to the panel are Denis M. Coolican, chairman, a member of Ontario's Environmental Assessment Board and a former chairman of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and President of Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

Maui Corbett, member, a Toronto lawyer who served as counsel for the Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions and a former member of the Ontario Municipal Board.

Harold Warwick, M.D., member, retired Professor and Dean of Medicine, University of

Western Ontario, and former Executive Director, National Cancer Institute of Canada and Canadian Cancer Society.

Dr. Donald Chant, founder of Pollution Probe, is the chairman of the board of directors and president of the Ontario Waste Management Corporation which is responsible for the development and management of the facility proposed for South Cayuga.

The Corporation is responsible for carrying out the studies and technical work essential to the development proposal. This information will provide a substantial part of the material reviewed at the special public hearings.

The Corporation will be responsible for finding another site should the site in South Cayuga be found unsuitable.





At the Hamilton 3d Sector depot a good part of the collected paper must be sorted by hand.



The 30 t baler in full operation at the Grey Bruce Waste Recycling in Owen Sound.

# Paper recycling work at full capacity

The building standing at the outskirts of Kitchener could have been built by the Wizard of Oz. It has no door where one should be, and two doors where you would not expect to find any. One of the doors opens to a square, semi-attached tower. Its wide, wooden spiralling staircase leads to nowhere in particular.

On Saturdays, the peculiar building is the meeting place where schoolboys and millionaires rub shoulders to exchange garbage for a penny a pound — the schoolkids come for pocket money, the many others because they want to help to keep Ontario beautiful.

During the week, the building is the Canadian head-office of Total Recycling Ltd., probably Canada's — and Ontario's — largest collector of recyclable materials, with depots in Vancouver, Red Deer, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Sault Ste Marie, Sudbury, North Bay, Ottawa, Pickering, Mississauga, Hamilton, Brantford, Ingersoll and London.

And Kitchener, of course. Total Recycling started its operations in Kitchener in July 1980, with the support of the local Mennonite Centre, manager Neil Ludolf said. The centre had reached the limits of its capacity to handle the used materials collected by the brethren.

Since then the students of the University of Waterloo, various neighborhood groups, service clubs, commercial and industrial companies and the curbside collection by municipal sanitary crews have steadily added to the flow of recyclable materials passing through Total Recycling's depot.

The Mennonite community still delivers about 200 tons of used newsprint, 20 tons of corrugated

cardboard and 25 tons of glass every three months.

Ten months after the start of the operation, Total Recycling's ten men staff works in two shifts to produce monthly about 400 tons of saleable recyclable materials — and the facilities are getting crowded. Manager Neil Ludolf is planning a move to larger quarters to enable him to handle the growing stream more efficiently.

Total Recycling's operation is purely profit oriented, Hamilton's 3d Sector's operation has a quite different purpose: the "recycling" of young people.

Norm Breckshaw, manager of the 3d Sector recycling depot on Niagara Street explains: "People's lives are controlled by the two

## Bridge to a new life

sectors of our society: the public sector, also called bureaucracy — and the private sector, generally consisting of commercial and industrial organizations. We call ourselves the 3d Sector, because we consider our task to be the building of a bridge between the two existing sectors — a bridge over which we can lead young people that have spent all their lives in a welfare environment to a useful life in the working community."

There are many young people in the 18 to 25 age bracket in the Hamilton area who have never learned to work, and who can not find employment because of their lack of experience and knowledge.

"The ones among them who have the drive to improve their situation find their way to us," Mr.



A smaller baler takes care of the paper collected in Hamilton.



# depots acity

Breckshaw says, "and we teach them to deal with a regular working environment. Some of them may even have to learn to read and to write, to adjust to regular hours, to deal with authority."

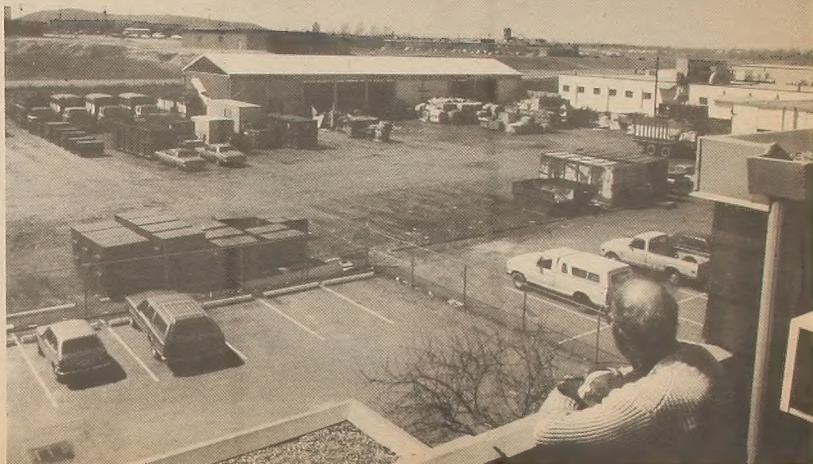
The 3d Sector's paper recycling operation gives these young people a three to six months training, a chance to find regular employment, and a recommendation to their new employers based on their performance. Generally 22 young men and women work at the depot driving trucks to collect paper from curbside, from stores and industrial plants and colleges and universities in the Hamilton, Stoney Creek and Dundas area.

At the depot, the paper is then sorted and baled for pick-up by users. About 150 tons of newsprint, 25 tons of high-grade paper and 40 tons of corrugated paper are recycled monthly.

Another, purely commercial and highly successful paper recycling operation is run in Owen Sound by Carman Bauman. When Mr. Bauman started his modest operation in 1977 he expected that it would be a spare time job that would net him a few dollars. Today he runs Ontario's probably largest single private waste paper recycling operation producing monthly 550 tons of paper in eight grades.

His customers are not only paper mills, but also pottery manufacturers who use the shredded paper as packing material and farmers who found that shredded paper makes a good, low cost bedding for cattle and can later be used as soil conditioner and fertilizer.

Since its start, Bauman's operation had to move several times to bigger premises. Now his operation occupies most of a large



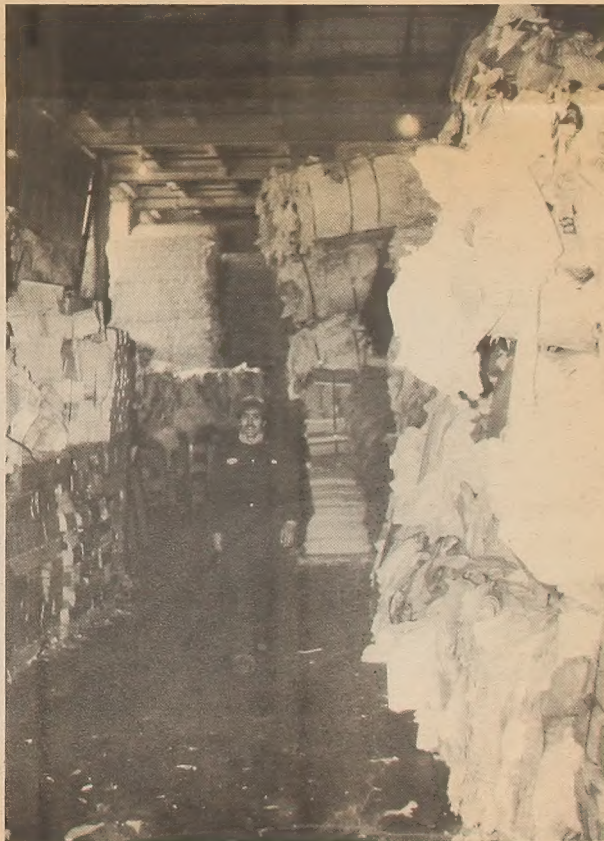
The yard of Total Recycling in Kitchener is getting too small...

(photo: R. Kott)

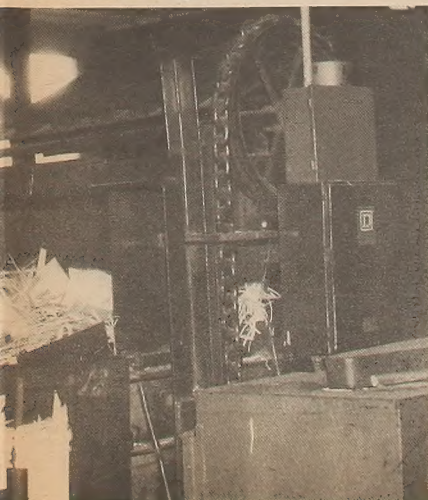
former factory building on the Owen Sound waterfront. Here, the space left over after the installation of a 65 ft. long and two-storey high 30 ton baler capable of producing 30 half-ton bales per hour, is filled to the rafters with paper of all sorts and grades.

Mr. Bauman, his two partners Tom McNabb and Ken McClelland and four employees work side by side organizing paper drives, collecting material from a wide variety of sources in an about 90 miles radius around Owen Sound, sorting, baling and delivering it. Nobody seems to mind to put in 16 hours per day quite frequently.

And the new place is again starting to burst at its seams, showing that there is a promising future in the new recycling business.

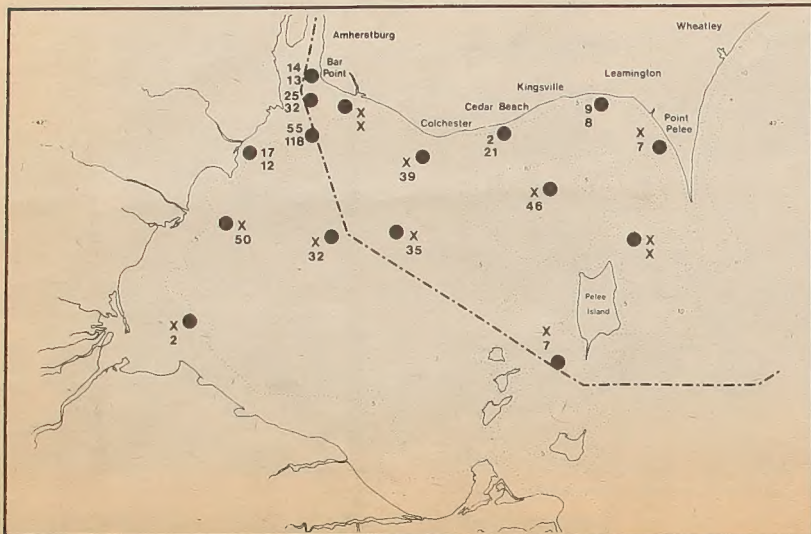


Carman Bauman, Grey Bruce's founder and manager, in the Owen Sound depot storage area.





# Western Lake Erie recuperates after 12 years



Location of sediment sampling stations in the Western Basin of Lake Erie in 1979. In 1967 samples were taken at approximately the same locations.

Water quality in western Lake Erie has improved significantly in recent years according to a scientific report released by Environment Ontario in March, 1981.

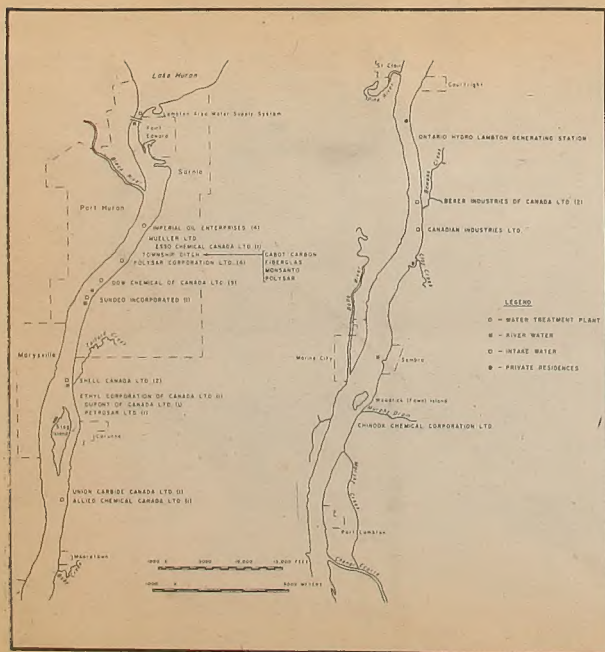
In the report, results from tests conducted in 1967 are compared with results obtained by similar tests done in 1979. Samples of sediments and specimen of bottom-dwelling organism were taken at the same 16 locations in both years, analyzed and compared.

In 1967 the bottom-living communities were dominated by pollution tolerant species of tubificids. In 1979 pollution sensitive midge larvae accounted for a larger percentage of the total organisms collected. The burrowing mayfly, a sensitive species absent in 1967, has returned to the mouth of the Detroit River.

Regular water monitoring by the Ministry of the Environment in the Western Basin of Lake Erie has also shown a general reduction in phosphorus levels over the past few years. A station in regular comparison of heavy metal contamination of sediments also suggests that some decrease has occurred.

The improvements in contamination are attributed to a tightening of pollution controls along the Detroit River.

## St. Clair River water shows improvement



Environment Ontario sampling stations for the monitoring of St. Clair River water quality.

Despite large volumes of effluents and of many organics entering the St. Clair River daily, the quality of the water is quite good. Environment Ontario scientists concluded in their final reports of a major study of the St. Clair River. The study also found, that the majority of sewers discharging into the river appear to present a minimal hazard due to the high rate of dilution.

The concluding three reports by the St. Clair River Organics Study Group deal with the identification and quantification of organic compounds, toxicity and tainting evaluations and the biodegradation of organic compounds.

The study group, composed of Environment Ontario scientists and analysts, has been working on the waterway since 1977. Their major objective is to assess the presence and significance of organic compounds in the St. Clair River system and to establish additional industrial control programs where necessary.

The groups reports recommend that:

- Industries discharging certain organic compounds be required to assess the technical factors involved in isolating and removing them from their waste discharges or reducing them to the lowest practicable level.
- Investigation should continue into long-term human health implications of low-level concentrations of organics in drinking water and in fish.

Three earlier reports were completed and released in January 1980 as part of the major St. Clair River study. They dealt with biological surveys, waste dispersion and the screening of industrial compounds for potential mutagens.

The biological survey showed a reduction in the size of a degraded water quality zone along the Canadian shoreline between 1968 and 1977.

### dispersion patterns assessed

The dispersion study assessed the dispersion characteristics of the river, concluding that contaminant discharges were confined to a thin, shoreline zone.

The screening study reported on laboratory testing of 23 compounds selected from industrial compounds detected in the river.

Environment Ontario industrial abatement staff will review the completed major study and recommendations with the Lambton Industrial Society which includes most industrial companies in the Sarnia area. Since work began on the St. Clair, some industries have upgraded their treatment process in recognition of the issues identified in the study, and the society members have been kept informed of ministry progress. The ministry acknowledges the co-operation of the industries during the course of this study.



# Unique incinerator installed at Lakeview STP

The second of two 70 ton waste heat recovery boilers has been installed as part of a \$36 million extension project at the Lakeview Water Pollution Control plant in Mississauga in February. The project is designed to permit the use of the sludge recovered during sewage treatment as fuel for sludge conditioning and for the heating of the plant.

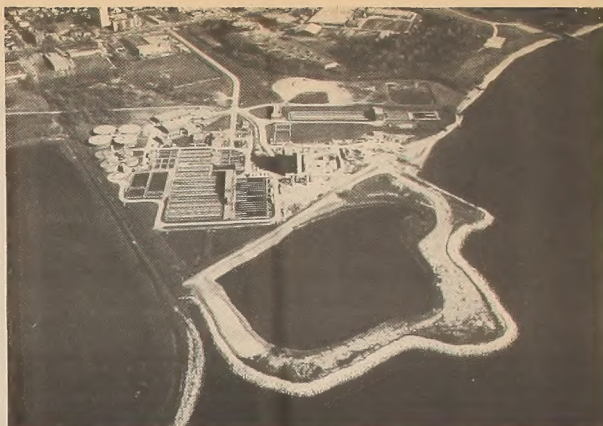
The new Lakeview sludge incinerator will not require any auxiliary fuel for its operation, and the energy recovered by the process will replace fossil fuels now used.

The about three-story high boiler has been transported to the site on a hydraulic 48-wheel float

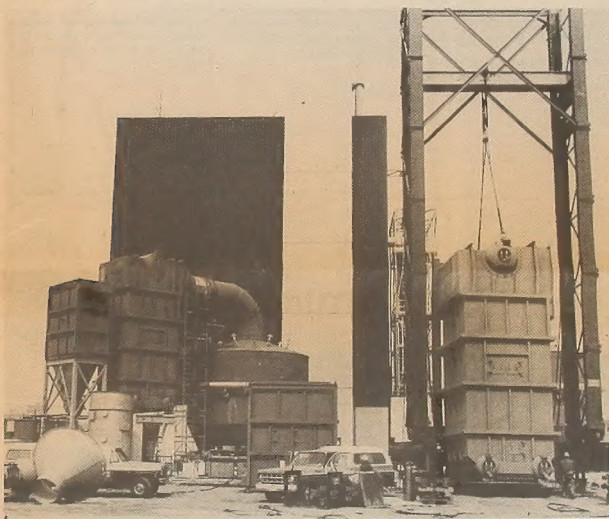
transporter, and was installed by a special, rail mounted jacking tower of 400 ton capacity and a 120 capacity mobile crane, both operated by a crew of highly trained specialists.

The Lakeview WPCP is owned and operated by Environment Ontario and has a treatment capacity of 37.5 million gallons per day. The new extension will raise the ultimate capacity of the plant to 60 million gallons per day.

The new incinerator system has been designed by Gore and Storrie Ltd., the heat recovery boilers were fabricated by Dominion Bridge Limited. General contractor for the installation is Dorr-Oliver Canada Ltd.

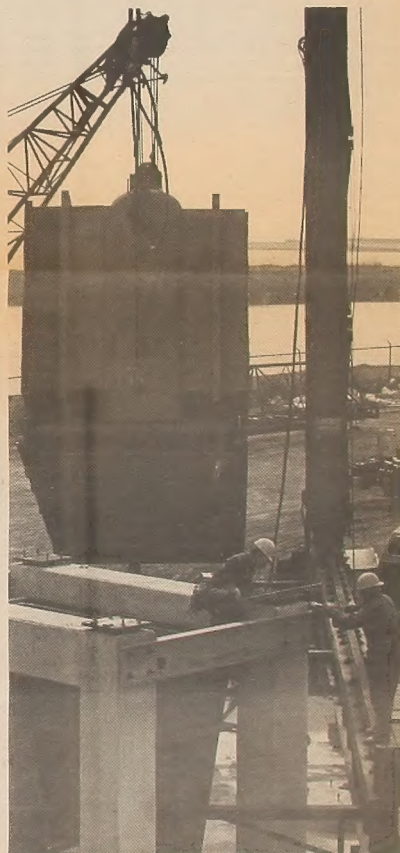


Aerial view of the Lakeview Sewage Treatment Plant. The new incinerators are visible in the center of the photo.



One of the two waste heat recovery boilers is already in place.

(photo: Travis Barbour)



The concrete foundation is readied to receive the new, 70 t boiler.

## 28th Industrial Waste Conference

Ontario's 28th Industrial Waste Conference will be held at the Prince Hotel, Don Mills, June 14-17, 1981. With attendance expected to parallel the 600 delegates of last year, the Conference Chairman J. Walter Giles, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment and Planning, Environment

Ontario, has expressed that the 1981 Conference will result in a greater insight into the problems and solutions that confront the industrial society of today.

Divided into five sessions, the Conference will cover Zero versus Acceptable Risk, Air Quality, Hazardous Contaminants, Liquid Industrial Wastes, and Environmental Perspectives. Among the speakers will be Professor Anne Whyte, Institute of Environmental Studies, University of Toronto; Anne Park, Head, Environment Section, U.S. Trans-Boundary Review, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa; Robert L. Collin, Chief Toxic Substances Control Unit, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Albany; Dr. Donald Chant, Chairman of the Ontario Waste Management Corporation, Toronto; and E.F. Winter, Superintendent of Process Technology, INCO Ltd., Port Colborne. The newly appointed Ontario Minister

of the Environment, Keith Norton, will also be participating in the program and deliver a progress report on the Province's waste management program.

In total 19 papers will be presented during the three-day Conference. The five session chairmen will include Dr. A.E. Robinson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Occupational Health and Safety Division, Ontario Ministry of Labour; Dr. R.W. Slater, Regional Director General, Ontario Region, Environment Canada; J.C. McMahon, Principal Water and Solid Wastes Engineer, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; D. Hoskins, Manager, Environmental Affairs, Shell Canada Limited; and G.C. Ronan, Director, Laboratory Services Branch, Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

In addition to Mr. Giles being chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, other members include vice-chairman C.J. Mac-

farlane, program convener R.C. Stewart, and conference coordinator M.F. Chechman. Members of the technical program committee are N. Borodczak, B. Boyko, C. Duncan, J. Hawley and P. Kupa. The broad mix of technical papers on pertinent environmental problems, the complimen-

tary spouse program, the annual dinner-dance banquet with a "change-of-pace" speaker, Paul Hanover, Hamilton radio and TV personality, and the balance of the conference program, should result in a full three days of deliberation resulting in personal benefit from the experiences of others.

## MOE streamlines capital financing

All functions relating to the management of Environment Ontario's \$1.6 billion investment in water and sewage works have been consolidated in a new capital financing office. The office will also deal with refinancing proposals, demands for information and reporting to central agencies and municipalities.

The new office is located at 135 St. Clair Avenue W. in Toronto. It will be co-ordinated by Clem Mialkowski.



# Proposed Region Landfill Site F: Is it environmental or political?

(Reprinted from Canadian Champion, October 15, 1980)

By Jim Robinson

Ontario Environment Minister Dr. Harry Parrott will sit down sometime in the new year and hesitantly affix his signature to a document which will chart the course of landfill operations in Halton Region for the next 10 to 20 years.

The document he signs may approve a sanitary landfill site in Milton; a sanitary landfill site in Burlington; an incineration of garbage program; perhaps even a plant which will convert all waste into useable energy and reusable products.

But whatever he does it will be the classic "no-win situation" and will embody as many political considerations as environmental ones.

If the Minister should decide a proposed landfill site in Burlington on lands owned by National Sewer Pipe is most environmentally sound, he will alienate most of Halton Regional Council and throw more than \$1 million worth of studies and documentation out the window, not to mention six years of studies, reports, debates, and hearings.

If he selects a proposed landfill site at the corner of Tremaine and Britannia Rds., in Milton, he will make Regional Council happy but it will not only convince the Town of Milton to continue its fight to secede from regional government which Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Tom Wells is to consider this week, but the council rest assured that he has re-elected Ontario Liberal MPP Julian Reed at a time when another provincial election is looming and Premier Davis has selected Halton-Burlington as one of the key ridings he wants to return to the Progressive-Conservative fold.

Only 246 acres of land (95 hectares) is going to be the crux on which the political, social, economic, and voting trends are going to be set in Halton Region.

The plot of land at Tremaine and Britannia Rds., known as Site F, was not haphazardly chosen to accept the next two to four million tons of Halton Region's garbage.

It was as much a decision based on months of engineering and environmental studies, as it turned out to be political two years later at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing.

After months of work Halton Region's site selection committee came forward in 1977 with Site F as the most logical. The main reason given was the site is equidistant to Burlington, Oakville, Milton and Halton Hills. But Milton Mayor Don Gordon still maintains the selection was "based on Burlington having nine votes, Oakville having eight, Halton Hills having four, and Milton having only three."

"We had the least votes so we got stuck."

Former Environment Minister, George Kerr: — He ruled in 1977 that Halton should be allowed to study Site F under the EPA.

On June 15, 1977, Halton Region passed Resolution 162-77 which stated the Region would proceed to have Site F approved as a sanitary landfill site. The resolution was put forward by Mayor Gordon and stated application would be through the Environmental Assessment Act (EAA).

But within weeks, then Regional Chairman Rick Morrow noted a request from environmental lawyer David Estrin who was just starting to represent a group of residents near Site F called the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group.

Mr. Estrin had written to Mr. Morrow wanting to know why the Region wasn't moving fast on an EAA application. Noting "this unusual interest aroused my curiosity" he ordered then solicitor R.M. Martin to look into what was going on and complete a report. Why, Mr. Morrow wondered, would a lawyer acting for residents opposed to the landfill site be so anxious to have it go forward for application?

"Needless to say, the contents of the report justified my concerns were more than justified," Mr. Morrow said in an Aug. 30, 1977 letter to the four mayors of Halton Region.

Mr. Morrow discovered there are two environmental regulations. One was the EAA and the other was the Environmental Protection Act (EPA). The one Mr. Morrow said the Council should have selected.

As you will note, no municipality has ever made application for landfill under this Act (EAA) and the possibility of delay and associated additional costs to the area municipalities is considerable.

"I don't believe members of Council even like to consider what costs might be incurred by the citizens when we choose the Oakville and Burlington sites, if Site F is not ready."

"You know the facts and serious situations with which this Council is faced. The decision to select Site F has been made and should not be confused with the most practical implementation of that decision," he said in his letter.

Although Mr. Morrow is now gone from the political scene, one wonders if he could have ever imagined when he wrote the letter Aug. 30, 1977 that implementation Oct. 15, 1980 would still hinge on the question of the EPA and the EAA? And could he have ever imagined that today the cost for studies at Site F alone is now beyond the \$500,000 mark with \$290,000 spent on engineering studies alone?

But perhaps most significant of all were three clauses in the report Mr. Martin prepared Aug. 19, 1977 on the EPA-EAA question.

He stated:

1. The right to have the Minister deem the appropriate zoning.
2. The right to have the Minister make an emergency order with respect to the landfill application if the situation becomes critical.

And most significantly:

3. The Minister's right to exercise political discretion to make the decision with respect to the landfill site, instead of having that decision made by an appointed body.

Milton Mayor, Don Gordon: — He is hoping a Sept. 30 court injunction will open the way for a hearing under rules of the EAA.

After that things started to happen fast. On Sept. 7, 1977, Resolution 162-77 was rescinded noting "Council hereby deems it appropriate to proceed with the landfill site under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act."

Just 12 days later the Town of Milton petitioned the Lieutenant Governor to overturn Regional Council's Sept. 7 decision and order the Council to remain with the EAA decision of June 15, 1977.

The squabble was bound to escalate. Into the fight stepped Ontario Liberal party leader Dr. Stuart Smith who demanded then Environment Minister George Kerr, proceed with Site F under the EAA as Council had voted.

On Nov. 2, 1977, Mr. Kerr wrote to Dr. Smith stating in part that he would go along with rescinding as Council requested and let Halton Region proceed under the EPA.

Mr. Kerr said in part, "now that Halton Regional Council has withdrawn its request to place its waste disposal facility under the

Environmental Assessment Act, I believe it would not be in the public interest for the Government to single out this particular project for treatment under procedure different than those which currently pertain to other municipalities."

"I trust you will understand that Halton Regional Council's Sept. 7 resolution has really left me with no other choice but to proceed with the legal requirements already in force."

The final act in the first part of the EPA-EAA fight came Nov. 23, 1977 when Ontario Environmental Approvals Branch Director D.P. Caplice stated Mr. Kerr had decided against the Site F Application going under the EAA "and that he will not be recommending to Cabinet that any action be taken with respect to bringing Halton's proposed facility under the Act."

But it was not the end. This very day the current Environmental Minister is considering a court injunction given Sept. 30, 1980 at which time Mr. Justice James Southey has brought the whole EPA-EAA question back to the Minister's desk some two years after it was supposed to have been settled.

Broadly speaking the EPA deals with the specific spot on the map which is to be studied environmentally while the EAA takes into the picture the entire Region and considers the environmental impact not just on flora and fauna, but on people economically and socially.

But all this talk about the EAA and the EPA means nothing to Miss Bease Smith. She is a 95-year-old spinster who lives in a home which will, if Site F is approved, be surrounded on three sides by the garbage dump.

Miss Smith has lived in the home all her life and has become the rallying point of the Tremaine-Britannia Citizens Group. And rally they have.

The TBGG celebrates Miss Smith's birthday each year; they hold regular "dump dance" parties to raise money to fight Halton Region; but what they do best is present a scenario of how the area will be hurt if a landfill site goes in.

## Environment awards for Ontario weeklies

Environment Ontario participates in the Annual Award Contest of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association by giving prizes for news, feature stories, or editorials which best deal with an environmental subject having impact upon the community served by the newspaper.

From the many entries submitted for the 1981 contest, Environment Ontario selected the following winners:

### FIRST PRIZE:

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION — MILTON

for an illustrated feature by Jim Robinson on a sanitary landfill facility prepared in his community. The in-depth researched, comprehensive and well written report presents a wide range of opinion on the issue.

Jim Robinson was also first prize winner of the 1980 Environment Ontario award.

### SECOND PRIZE:

THE LAKESHORE ADVERTISER/ETOBICOKE GUARDIAN

for a report by Leslie Ferenc on Etoibicoke's noise by-law. The report assesses the impact of the anti-nuisance by-law on the community one year after its adoption.

The first and second prize-winning reports are reprinted in full on these and the following pages.

### HONOURABLE MENTION:

THE LISTOWEL BANNER

for an illustrated, comprehensive report on a new sewage treatment system using catfish in an artificial marsh.

THE BRAMPTON GUARDIAN

for a feature on the problems inherent with the disposal of municipal waste and resource recovery.



How it is now: This view of the proposed Halton regional landfill site shows the current pastoral beauty of the area. It is considered prime agricultural land.



How it might be: This is a shot of the Peel Regional landfill site on Britannia Rd. near Creditview in Mississauga. It is essentially similar in design to the one planned for Tremaine and Britannia Rds. in Halton.



# Site F: Is it environmental or political?

Their best weapon is the Halton Regional Official Plan. In it there is a clause which states that agricultural lands be preserved and protected and above all considerations. And they even have the support of the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee which was formed by and reports to Halton Regional Council. Both groups have been in their opposition to Site F.

The advisory committee meeting of Sept. 17, 1980, Anne Katz brought in the TBCC members to appeal for help in fighting the Environmental Assessment Board hearing which was to have started today in Halton Central Manor but is now postponed due in large part to the Town of Milton resurfacing the EAA squabble before Mr. Justice Sweeney.

The Region has stated that one of the problems the group perceives as being inevitable with Site F.

**Miss Bessie Smith: — If Site F is approved her home, in which she has lived all her life will be surrounded on three sides by the 246 acre sanitary landfill site.**

Craig Reid, 25 years a breeder of champion Holstein cattle, said, "This is a much more prime agricultural land... and in all my experience there has never been a case of land fill being returned to agriculture. The Region has stated that the site would be covered over with five feet of fill and used again for agriculture."

Lois Freeman, Britannia Rd., said the wind so bad in winter it made driving impossible. She said she had the house blown off three times in five years she has lived near the proposed dump site. She says such winds will pick up paper and garbage and litter the region. The Region states it will not happen.

Bob Johnson who lives on Indian Creek road runs beside the dump site says there will be no more getting rid of garbage. He cited the situation in Georgetown where the landfill site was filled and covered over March 31, 1980. Now the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is investigating reports of "black nose" escaping into the Credit River. In fact Halton Regional Council made \$78,000 available Oct. 7, 1980 to improve leachate control, although the covering contract was supposed to have solved this. The Region states a layer of "impermious" clay will be used to help leachate at Site F. It states the percolation of water will take eight to 10 years.

Warren Blacklock, Tremaine Rd., moved with his family to the area 15 years ago because the site was a "perfectly quiet" place. "Now he has been told there will be a truck passing his home once every minute with Site F."

The statements were heard at the 1979 OMB hearing into zoning the site for landfill but they'll be heard again when and if the Environmental Assessment Board reconvenes later this year.

Also speaking against Site F at the hearing and expected to return again will be several other citizens and homeowners groups and the Halton Region Conservation Authority, which is headed by the Regional Municipality of Halton.

And even as the Region continues to grind on to win Solicitor and Acting Chief Executive Officer David Christy has a "no win situation," there are two new wrinkles in the whole tangled situation.

When the Halton site selection committee was looking around for possible locations, they noted national Sevier Pipe Limited had an extraction pit located between the old Burlington Dump site and the current Burlington landfill site.

The site was labelled Site A and firm president Kelly New approached to see if he wanted to sell, the answer was a firm no. That was in 1977 while Mr. New was, and still is, a member of the Halton Region Conservation Authority.

And so the site selection committee ruled out Site A and everything gravitated toward Site F.

On Sept. 28, 1979, some two years after Mr. Morrow sent out his fatal letter, National Sewer Pipe Executive Vice President Bud Christy appeared before the Halton Regional Solid Waste Management Committee. He said the firm was now ready, willing, and able to talk about a site 200 acres known as Site A as a landfill site.

Committee vice-chairman Russ Miller, later to be committee chairman when Councilor Jerry Marnell resigned in a huff, was stazed.

"It seems that now Site F is down the drain... I don't want any more wheeling and dealing to go on like we had in Site F," he said.

**Ontario Liberal Leader, Dr. Stuart Smith: — In 1977 he asked Environment Minister George Kerr to change his mind on Site F. Mr. Kerr refused.**

The meeting ran from high to high. Mr. Christensen said the land could handle up to three million tons of garbage, more if it is compacted. He said the site could thus be used for 10 to 15 years. And best of all the leachate pipe from the closed and current dumps ran right in front of National Sewer Pipe and a pipe from Site A could just be "added on."

The change of heart by National Sewer Pipe was not based on wanting to be charitable on pure economics. The company makes sewer pipes of clay but the switch to rubber and plastic pipes is taking over. By accepting some three million tons of garbage at the 59 Halton Region tipping fee, Mr. New et al could count on at least \$27 million coming in over the next 15 years.

Halton Region authorized noted hydrogeologist Dr. John Cherry to start a study and even allowed for an over-sized leachate pipe to go in just in case.

To Milton, and all those opposed to Site F, the feeling was summed up by Mr. Gordon who stated Oct. 3, 1979.

"I say we won't have Site F."

"The hearing on Site F has now been put off until November and we're going to have a long, long hearing after that."

"In the meantime, if all runs tickety-boo, I think we could have Site A approved next year... I mean 1980," he said.

"It has been one year since those statements and still the hydrogeological report is not completed and Mayor Gordon is claiming a Regional stalling tactic."

**Ontario Environment Minister Dr. Harry Parrott: — The buck stops at his desk.**

But it's not for want of trying. On March 13 of this year Regional Councilors found themselves embroiled over a petition to Environment Minister Dr. Harry Parrott. Environmental Assessment Hearing must consider what is most environmentally sound for the Region. Although it has not yet been the policy of the EAB to consider more than one site at a time, Milton Council stated Site A was so close to being "ideal" that it would only be right for the Minister to allow this to happen.

It didn't and Dr. Parrott said so in a letter to the Town of Milton and to Halton Regional Council. In essence, he said, the EPA legislation deals with one specific site and therefore, it would not be fair of him to change the rules the ball game was being played under.

The second incident which could have brought chaos was the Solid Waste Management Committee, a public works sub-committee, formed to help meet a Regional priority which called for Halton to lessen its dependence on sanitary landfill sites.

Kilborn Limited, an environmental consulting firm from Toronto, was given \$55,000 to complete a full review of Halton's waste disposal picture from sludge to the sublime. The final draft emphatically turned down the idea of land fill in place of a Resource Derived Fuel plant to be built, with the blessing of the landowners, on the Shell Canada Refinery property. It also suggested waste transfer stations; steam production from garbage plants to help heat the gasified effluent Hospital; even a program of mandatory source separation of garbage in the home so that money made from waste could be applied against the waste disposal problem of the region," he said.

It would take a story as long as this one to explain "what went wrong," but the committee Chairman Terry Marnell resigned after the committee budget request was dropped from the 1980 operating budget April 15 of this year.

"I can only assume the Region is still committed to landfill," he said.

He said a number of other things very

uncomplimentary to Regional Chairman Jack Ruffin and ended by accusing Halton Region of using bad faith with taxpayers by promoting their waste disposal but continuing on with landfill regardless of who or what was opposed.

Strong stuff, but when the solid waste committee budget was completely cut except for \$120,000 for the source separation program, those against Site F renewed the fight. And it should be noted the \$120,000 was almost dropped again in September of this year when the Region ran into a "surprise" \$700,000 deficit and they needed money from anywhere to make it good. The money wasn't touched then, but it has since been revealed the sewer structure system may result in at least a \$500,000 deficit by the end of the year, and more probably an astronomical \$3 million by 1983 according to Price-Waterhouse in a sewer structure report.

Ironically, Halton has just received a letter from Dr. Parrott advising the Minister's intention of setting up plants which would use garbage as a source of heat and fuel. Halton Region, he said, was one of the last Ontario municipalities his Ministry would like to include on a short list.

On the Sept. 17, 1980 Regional Council agenda the letter appeared. With the Councilors decided that same day with the auditor's report on the deficit, and a management study report on the senior staff

**Ontario Housing Minister, Claude Bennett: — When he signed Halton's Official Plan it made preserving prime agricultural land a priority.**

at the region which has already resulted in the sacking of Chief Administrator Officer Eric Reid and Treasurer Don Farmer, the Region is not official and its purpose "received and filed."

On June 15, 1980 the Ontario Municipal Board concluded the lands known as Site F could be rezoned to a landfill operation.

The zoning amendment was sought by Halton Region and opposed by every other group, agency or municipality north of the Quebec-Elizabeth Way.

Instead of it being the final act in legitimizing Site F, it has opened the gate to what may well be an environmental decision which will set a precedent not just in Ontario, but for all of Canada.

And once again that precedent will wind up squarely on the desk of Dr. Parrott.

The Town of Milton, despite the fact it is not a member municipality of Halton Region and dutifully pass a zoning bylaw in order to make the proper legal connection, has refused to enact the bylaw or even consider it on paper.

As late as Sept. 8, 1980 Solicitor-CAO Dennis Perrin wrote to Roy Mann, Halton Co-ordinator, warning him of the consequences of not passing the necessary bylaws.

"The order of the Ontario Municipal Board may be enforced as a judgement or order of the Supreme Court of Canada and therefore, shall be treated with due respect," he said.

Mr. Perrin said he was aware of opponents of Site F, "but he has no doubt that they may attempt to forestall environmental proceedings on the basis that environmental approval cannot be sought and/or finalized until the Official Plan has been formally changed."

**Halton Region Council, Jack Ruffin: — As late as Sept. 24, 1980 he got the Regional Council to concur in 1977 vote to proceed to an Environmental Assessment hearing under the EPA.**

And indeed the zoning amendment at the Region has only been given two readings at this date and it is incumbent on finalization of a Milton bylaw before this can happen.

But the break came with a break and that was Sept. 25, 1980.

The break was furnished by D.P. Caplice, staff Director of the Environmental Approvals Branch.

He was commenting on a letter from David Estrin, on behalf of the Tremaine-Brittania Citizens Group that to proceed under the EPA "it must be be constituted on the Environmental Assessment Board hearing which by then

had been officially slated to begin today. Writing to Mr. Perrin, Mr. Caplice stated: "It has not been the practice in the past to impose any conditions on the Environmental Assessment Board with respect to the manner in which hearings are to be conducted as it is difficult beforehand to determine all the issues which should be considered at the hearing."

"It is not reasonable to unknowingly place obstacles through directing any prior conditions in any notice to the Board which would prevent any of these being dealt with at the hearing."

And then the crucial sentence: "I am of the opinion that the Board must have considerable latitude to ensure that a proper hearing can take place and that all relevant matters can be fully explored and report upon as may be required on a case by case basis."

For the Town of Milton and its associated anti-Site F allies, the door to bringing back a hearing under the EAA had receded to head as "considerable latitude" was taken to mean Site A plus the Socio-demographic aspects associated with the EAA as opposed to the point-on-the-map regulations of the EPA.

So armed Fred Leitch representing Milton and J. Edgar Sexton, representing the Regional Municipality of Halton met Sept. 20 before Mr. Justice James Southby to argue whether the Oct. 15 hearing would be under the EPA or the EAA.

Mr. Justice Sweeney, looking at a stream of documents heard arguments from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. He decided he must defer to Dr. Parrott and that has resulted in him giving Milton and Halton 30 days in which to have all the issues decided before him so that a decision can be made.

Based on two very different conceptions of how the hearing should proceed, the resumption of the hearing could take until Nov. 11 as Mr. Perrin predicts, or into the new year, which Site F opponents predict.

Milton's case is the bylaw is not passed and the zoning is not official and this must be considered with the fact wide latitude was given in any notice in all environmental concerns.

**Regional Councillor, Terry Marnell: — He quit the Solid Waste Committee charging the Region was committed to landfill, not promises of resource recovery.**

The region's case will be more tried. Mr. Perrin is counting on a "grandfather clause" in the environmental regulations. Even though Site F was started before the implementation of the EPA, it probably still falls under the EPA regulations.

On top of that Mr. Perrin will be sending a book almost 10 inches thick of studies done all with the understanding that the hearing would proceed under the EPA as decided in 1977 and confirmed in the Halton Regional Council Resolution Sept. 24, 1980.

Mr. Perrin said some \$500,000 has been spent with consultants on studies and reports. To change now to the EAA would mean a long delay as the reports branch out to cover all of Halton. The cost would be at least another \$150,000 he told Council Sept. 24.

## Car fumes boost growth

Automobile exhaust fumes, rubber particles, lead and de-icing salt are oppressive for most organism — but many herbivorous insects seem to thrive on them, researchers in Europe and North America found.

Ecologists at the Imperial College in Ascot, England, discovered that the insect population explosion along highways is mainly caused by an increase in the nitrogen available to them from car exhaust.

The airborne nitrogen oxides not only boosts the growth of certain plants, but also makes them more palatable to insects. Lack of nitrogen is also often a factor limiting larvae growth.

Both the Region and Milton et al are convinced they can win from a strictly environmental point of view, provided of course they get the "right" political ruling on which act will be used at the hearing.

Halton Region has prepared the following reports: Environmental Analysis Report, Proposed Landfill Site F; prepared for M.M. Dillon Limited by Ecoplans Limited; a supplementary environmental analysis report on wildlife prepared for M.M. Dillon by Ecoplans.

**Milton Clerk-Administrator, Roy Mann: — To this date he has not brought forward a bylaw to zone Site F as a landfill area.**

Hydrogeological study prepared for M.M. Dillon by Gartner, Lee Associates Limited Aug. 1978 and revised May 1980. Noise Impact Analysis by Valcoques Canada Limited dated Nov. 1978 and feasibility study, 1980. Hydrology Study prepared by M.M. Dillon May 1980. Feasibility Study on the Agricultural Rehabilitation of a Proposed Landfill Operation, by Ecological Services dated Aug. 1978 and revised Feb. 1980. Regional Landfill Site Design and Operations Report, prepared by M.M. Dillon Dec. 1978, revised May 1980.

**Halton Solid Waste Committee Chairman, Russ Miller: — He thought in 1979 Site A would beat Site F to approval.**

All these reports indicate Site F is suited for a landfill operation and the Region is convinced of success under the EPA. Milton et al feel they can win from an environmental point of view as long as the hearing is opened up to hear all the evidence as suggested in Mr. Caplice's letter.

Mayor Don Gordon hints that Dr. John Cherry will be called to give the results to date of his hydrogeological report on Site A.

And in addition "I'd bet that if you gave Kelly New the document to sign today to turn his lands into a dump, he'd sign in an instant."

Clearly the Milton forces are counting on the Region counting on a "grandfather clause" in the environmental regulations. Even though Site F was started before the implementation of the EPA, it probably still falls under the EPA regulations.

There will be an Environmental Assessment Board hearing and a decision will be reached.

But what will that decision be and what elements are going to decide it?

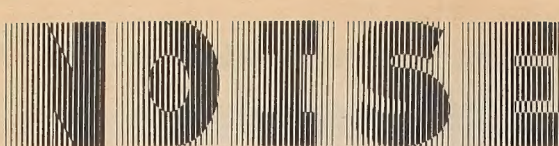
Site F — Is it environmental? Is it political? Is it right? Is it wrong?

That is the question, says Parrott, must decide sometime in the new year when he sits down at his desk and hesitantly picks up a pen to sign a document which will chart the course of landfill operations in Halton Region for the next 11 to 20 years.

## State Responsible

A special governor's commission in New Jersey has recommended that the disposal of hazardous waste be overseen by a state-run corporation. The proposed corporation would be empowered to finance construction of treatment plants and to overrule local decisions regarding the location of such facilities.





(Reprinted from The Lakeshore Advertiser/The Etobicoke Guardian, June 18, 1980)

By LESLIE FERENC  
Staff Writer

When the neighborhood disc jockey cranks up the stereo just as you're turning off, or the dogs on the street begin serenading a full moon, don't despair. Etobicoke has a noise control bylaw that may solve your problem.

Bruce Branton, commissioner of works, says the 50-page bylaw, which was approved last year, gives the borough the power to ensure residents have the right to an environment free from unusual, unnecessary or excessive sound or vibration. According to the wording in the regulation, sounds falling into this category "may degrade the quality and tranquility of their life or cause nuisance."

"Because many of the noise complaints are received after hours, the police have been designated as the bylaw enforcement officers," explains Branton. "Our department does get the odd call, and as a courtesy we will go out to speak to the people, but by and large the police handle these matters."

"When the bylaw was finally approved, one copy was placed in every police patrol car to help the officers to enforce the bylaw after hours."

Branton says that noisy residents can be called on the carpet by police for playing a stereo at an unacceptable level after 5 p.m. And dogs which bark excessively after 11 p.m. and before 7 a.m. can also bring patrol cars to the door.

## Once cautioned

"We find however that in general people are very cooperative if a noisy situation arises," Branton says. "Once someone has been cautioned, there usually aren't any more problems."

The Lakeshore Advertiser / Etobicoke Guardian polled all three police divisions in the borough to determine which sections were the noisiest, and according to the reports, 23 Division seemed to receive the most calls.

PC Rick Lawrence, a community relations officer at 23 Division, 2126 Kipling Ave., says the bylaw is actually divided into two sections which cover residential and industrial noise.

"When we receive a complaint about a noisy party a patrol car will answer the call," he says. "The officers will monitor the sound, before they knock on the door, to determine if the noise is disturbing any person in the immediate area. If the noise is a nuisance, we will caution the people concerned and inform them that because a complaint has been received the noise must be decreased."

"In the case where the noise persists after our initial warning, and we are called back to the same location, the names and addresses of the residents are recorded and a summons is sent out."

Industrial noise, such as work crews repairing the road, are also not uncommon complaints received by the department. But in this case, says Lawrence, crews have permits issued by the borough to do the work which may include the use of noisy equipment such as pneumatic drills.

"We'll investigate these complaints as well, and once we've seen the permit and been informed that the job will be completed by a designated time, we go back and explain the situation to the residents."

"In most cases the work must be done," Lawrence also says. "I've seen teenagers who whoop it up in the parks in the wee hours of the morning" have also been the cause of resident complaints. But, he adds, these situations rarely pose a problem as far as disposal is concerned because usually the teens are drinking illegally in the parks.

"We investigate all noise complaints," he continues. "Granted sometimes on the weekends, when are our busiest times, we may not get to a location immediately, but we do get around to those calls."

"We are also finding that there is more noise in high-rise buildings than in residential areas. And there are more noise complaints in areas where the population is younger."

"But the bylaw is working because I know of quite a few instances where the fines have been heavy. And it has laid down the bylaw that a minimum \$50 fine can be levied on a second call. The judge can rule a \$500 fine be levied or a six-month jail

sentence served for persistent bylaw contravention."

"Sure there are repeaters, especially when we can't get around to them — they get away with it. But as a rule, we always do a follow-up call."

PC Wayne Carpenter of 21 Division, 791 Islington Ave., says although some charges have been laid, he finds that most calls just require a caution.

"Most of our calls deal with barking dogs," he says, or neighbors complaining about lawn mowers running early in the morning.

"But we find that we have to be careful because sometimes you can run into a situation where the neighbors are feuding, and that could be touchy."

Inspector Percy Hill of 22 Division, 3699 Bloor St. W., says complaints about noise in his district are few and far between. "We get surprisingly few calls about noise," he says. "There are two or three areas where problems crop up, and even then those don't come up often."

It's one thing to live in a neighborhood where the occasional dog barks after the 11 p.m. news have been shut off. But it's a different story when you live under a flight path or under an off-ramp to Hwy. 427 or next to a railway track.

Ward 3 Alderman Dick O'Brien says some of his constituents have had serious problems as a result of noise generated by highway traffic.

"We've been trying to get the province to put up noise barriers and berms for a long time," he says. "The province has its priorities as far as sites are concerned."

## Update priorities

Last March both O'Brien and Alderman Al Allman requested the province update its priority list for barriers.

O'Brien pointed out that a barrier on the south side of Eglinton Ave. south of Hwy. 427 should have been dropped to a lower position (from No. 12) to give precedence to the opposite side of the street, west of Hwy. 427 (which is currently No. 60 on the list).

"The noise is definitely more prominent on the west side of the highway," he said. "I want to know why the province has decided to place that portion of the road so low on the list."

Borough engineer Gerry Taylor explained that homes on the east side backed on to Hwy. 427 and easterly winds tended to carry the traffic noise into the bedrooms.

"On the west side, the homes front the road, so there isn't as great a problem with noise in bedrooms."

But O'Brien was also concerned that although some noise barriers on the list had been constructed or are currently under construction "no new sites had been added to the list."

## Timely Restrictions

### PROHIBITIONS

Detonation of fireworks or firecrackers

Operation of electronic devices for amplification

Ringling bells, sirens, horns or whistles

Operation of motorized vehicles other than on designated highways

Barking pets

Yelling, shouting, whistling or singing

Operation of power-assisted hand glider or parafall

Loading, unloading materials unless for essential services

Operation of construction equipment

Use of power tools

### TIME

#### QUIET ZONE

all times

all times

all times

all times

all times

all times

all times

all times

all times

all times

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all times

all times

all times

all times

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all times

all times

#### RESIDENTIAL

all times

between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Sundays, statutory holidays and between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Sundays, holidays and between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.

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# If it's a nuisance control bylaw can be enforced



STAFF PHOTO

"I've written a couple of letters to the ministry and we had some meetings on this matter, but as far as there being anything done..."

According to Giroux, the province made a feeble attempt to rectify the noise problem by planting trees. This solution, however, did not come close to what the residents were after.

"I had someone from the ministry come out to my house to ask me about my complaints," he says. "And they did something — they planted trees. But where the trees are planted serves no useful purpose as far as noise is concerned. The trees were planted strictly in an attempt to beautify the area. The ministry thought that by doing this they could get the residents to stop complaining."

Giroux's original plan was to get trees planted close to the ramp on a temporary wall to help cut down the noise. But that did not happen. "And there isn't anything up there at all."

"I intended to keep pursuing this thing. And aside from the noise problem I like this area. Besides, where would I go if I leave here?"

"I normally don't like to squawk but I know that I have a legitimate complaint..."

"In fact, I've often thought of putting up a plywood wall in front of my house and painting in huge letters 'Sound Barrier'."

It may cost me a few bucks, but by God, that'll let folks know what's going on."

Carlo Patton, 122 Beaver Bend Cres., says if another petition for a noise barrier were being circulated "I would walk for miles to get names signed up."

There have been three or four petitions on this matter over the years, she says.

"And we desperately need a barrier. But because there aren't many people living in this area — about 180 homes — there doesn't seem to be any effect."

Mrs. Patton says on a clear sunny day, the noise is dispersed, but on cloudy days,

with low clouds, the noise is unbearable. "If we're in the backyard, we find we're yelling at each other just to hear each other speak," she says. "And we have a pool, but don't use it too often because of the noise."

"I also find that when the noise is really loud, we all get cranky. It can be terrible."

## More fortunate

Other Ward 3 residents who moved into newer subdivisions are more fortunate than the Giroux's, the Pattons and the Murphys.

Borough planner Bernd Angelow says residents living in the townhouse development south of Holiday Inn Dr. and off Hwy. 427 purchased homes that had noise attenuating features built into them when the units were constructed in 1976.

"The development is built without berms, yet the first row of townhouses faces right on to the highway," he explains.

"The first row of houses is solid (no spaces in between), and all the windows in the development are double-glazed and the doors are solid and insulated against sound. Each unit also has central air conditioning."

"The ministry of environment checked out the noise levels and although the view may not be the best, the noise levels are acceptable."

"In fact, when the development was completed, the ministry gave tours to illustrate the noise abatement features."

Early last year, for example, residents living in the vicinity of Burlington St., south of the CNR right of way, warned potential buyers about noise problems in the area.

But despite objections from residents and CNR officials, who were bent on blocking the development, anticipating complaints about train noise and pollution, Revenue Properties (Central) Developments Ltd., was granted approval to build.